IN THE CLAIMS

    1. - 37.   (cancelled)

    38.   (currently amended) A   method   for   administrating distribution of contents, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

    receiving a request for specified content from a user terminal;

    obtaining   the   specified   content   from   a   content provider;

    encrypting the specified content ~~with~~ using a content key;

    adding a content ID of the specified content to the encrypted content;

    transmitting   the   encrypted   content   ~~having~~ and the added content ID ~~added thereto~~ through the user terminal to a player ~~content server~~;

    generating   a   use   condition   ~~including~~ associated with the content ID for specifying ~~the content which a user apparatus is authorized to use in accordance with the use condition and a user ID specifying the user apparatus that is authorized to~~ use of the specified content in accordance with the use condition; and

    at   a   time   subsequent   to   the   transmitting   of   the encrypted content and the added content ID through the user terminal to the player,

    receiving a request for the content key from the player   through   the   user   terminal,   the   request including the content ID, and

    in   response   thereto,   transmitting   ~~the encrypted content stored in the content server,~~ the content key and the use condition through ~~a~~ the user terminal to ~~a~~ the player ~~in response to a request from a user~~.

    39.   (currently amended) The method according to claim 38, further comprising ~~the step of~~ generating the content key.

40.   (currently amended) The method according to claim 38, further comprising ~~the step of~~ compressing the <u>specified</u> content.

41.   (currently amended) The method according to claim 38, further comprising ~~the step of~~ encrypting the content key <u>prior to the transmitting of the content key</u> so that an unauthorized apparatus is unable to decrypt<u> the encrypted content</u>.

42.   (currently amended) The method according to claim 38, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

executing a process to share a session key with the user; and

encrypting the use condition ~~with~~ <u>using</u> the session key<u> prior to the transmitting of the use condition</u>.

43.   (currently amended) An apparatus for administering distribution of content~~s~~, <u>the apparatus </u>comprising:

receiving means for receiving a <u>request for specified content from a user terminal;</u>

<u>obtaining means for obtaining the specified </u>content from a content provider;

encrypting means for encrypting the <u>specified </u>content ~~with~~ <u>using </u>a content key;

adding means for adding a content ID <u>of the specified content </u>to the encrypted content;

transmitting means for transmitting the encrypted content ~~having~~ <u>and </u>the <u>added </u>content ID ~~added thereto~~ <u>through the user terminal </u>to a <u>player</u>~~content server~~;<u> and</u>

generating means for generating a use condition ~~including~~ <u>associated with </u>the content ID <u>for </u>specifying ~~the content which a user's apparatus is authorized to use in accordance with the use condition and a user ID specifying the user apparatus that is authorized to~~ use <u>of </u>the <u>specified </u>content in accordance with the use condition;

the receiving means, at a time subsequent to the transmitting means transmitting the encrypted content and the added content ID through the user terminal to the player, receiving a request for the content key from the player through the user terminal, the request including the content ID, and in response thereto, ~~wherein~~ the transmitting means transmitting~~s~~ ~~the encrypted content stored in the content server,~~ the content key and the use condition through ~~a~~ the user terminal to ~~a~~ the player ~~in response to a request from the user~~.

44.   (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 43, further comprising second generating means for generating the content key.

45.   (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 43, further comprising compressing means for compressing the specified content.

46.   (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the encrypting means encrypts the content key prior to the transmitting means transmitting the content key so that an unauthorized apparatus is unable to decrypt the encrypted content.

47.   (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 43, further comprising executing means for executing a process to share a session key with the user, and wherein the encrypting means encrypts the use condition ~~with~~ using the session key prior to the transmitting means transmitting the use condition.

48.   (new)   An apparatus for administering distribution of content, the apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit that receives a request for specified content from a user terminal;

an obtaining unit that obtains the specified content from a content provider;

a encrypting unit that encrypts the specified content using a content key;

an adding unit that adds a content ID of the specified content to the encrypted content;

a transmitting unit that transmits the encrypted content and the added content ID through the user terminal to a player; and

a generating unit that generates a use condition associated with the content ID for specifying use of the specified content in accordance with the use condition;

the receiving unit, at a time subsequent to the transmitting unit transmits the encrypted content and the added content ID through the user terminal to the player, receives a request for the content key from the player through the user terminal, the request including the content ID, and in response thereto, the transmitting unit transmits the content key and the use condition through the user terminal to the player.

49.   (new)   The apparatus according to claim 48, further comprising a second generating unit that generates the content key.

50.   (new)   The apparatus according to claim 48, further comprising a compressing unit that compresses the specified content.

51.   (new)   The apparatus according to claim 48, wherein the encrypting unit encrypts the content key before the transmitting unit transmits the content key so that an unauthorized apparatus is unable to decrypt the encrypted content.

52.   (new)   The apparatus according to claim 48, further comprising an executing unit that executes a process to share a session key with the user, and wherein the encrypting unit

encrypts the use condition using the session key before the transmitting unit transmits the use condition.